



THE COMBINE

THE COMBINE ANNUAL REPORT



2024

TABLE OF CONTENTS

02	About The Combine	18	Nebraska is the epicenter of the BioEconomy
03	Our Sponsors	19	2024 Top 10 National News
04	Program Metrics	21	Nebraska Corn Board
05	Insights Network	22	Heartland Robotics Cluster Progresses in Building Robotics Pipeline in Nebraska
06	AgTech Connect Conference	23	2024 Top 10 Nebraska News
07	Combine Company Updates		



About The Combine

The Combine is a statewide initiative dedicated to empowering high-growth entrepreneurs in food and agriculture. The program offers comprehensive support, including go-to-market mentorship, a capital readiness program, strategic networking events, and a network of partnering producers across Nebraska. Entrepreneurs also benefit from access to premier incubation space at Nebraska Innovation Campus, fostering innovation and growth in the heart of the state's agricultural ecosystem.

Ag Innovation Happens in Nebraska

This year, The Combine achieved unprecedented milestones in supporting high-growth entrepreneurs in AgTech, Robotics, Food, and Biotechnology across Nebraska. The program's momentum is stronger than ever, with Combine companies breaking barriers, driving innovation, and creating high-paying jobs statewide. In 2024, we proudly welcomed 14 new companies, increasing the total to 38. Our third Annual AgTech Connect Conference saw nearly 300 attendees gather at Nebraska Innovation Campus in July to celebrate agricultural innovation. Alongside this flagship event, we hosted National Ag Day with Governor Jim Pillen, Nebraska Department of Agriculture Director Sherry Vinton, and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, as well as a special session with Farm Credit Administration Chairman and CEO Vincent Logan. The year also featured our AgTech Lunch and Learn series, connecting industry leaders and innovators. Expanding globally, The Combine hosted three international AgTech entrepreneurs from Argentina, Brazil, and Costa Rica for month-long residencies. Additionally, Josh DeMers traveled to Argentina to explore their AgTech ecosystem, while Tanner Nelson joined the Nebraska Department of Economic Development on a trade mission to EuroTier in Germany. Closer to home, we expanded our physical footprint by 2,800 square feet at Nebraska Innovation Campus and celebrated receiving Phase 1 and Phase 2 awards from the SBA Growth Accelerator Fund Competition.

Thank you to the entrepreneurs, partners, and stakeholders who continue to drive the growth of Nebraska's AgTech ecosystem. Together, we're building a brighter, more innovative future!

Founding Sponsors



Visionary Sponsors



Statewide Sponsors



2024 Program Metrics To-Date



Number of Companies

38



Jobs Created

64



Internships Offered

35



Venture Capital Raised

\$25.427M



Grants Received

\$15.716M

The Combine Monthly Newsletter

Program updates delivered to your inbox once a month. Sign Up Now:

NebraskaCombine.com



2024 Insights Network

MEMBERS OF THE INSIGHTS NETWORK:

- **Farmers & Producers Across Nebraska**
- **Assist Entrepreneurs In Customer Discovery**
 - Assisting entrepreneurs through properly defining problems faced in the industry as well as on-site feedback.
- **Participate in Pilot Projects**
 - On-farm/ranch trials for in-the-field testing and producer feedback on the startup's products.

113

members

89

communities



The Insights Network was created to help bridge the gap between agricultural startups and Nebraska producers. The network allows for quick and comprehensive feedback to startups along with real world scenario testing. Meanwhile, producers are exposed to potential technology advancements on their operation and the opportunity to help shape future developments. Current operations grow the following crops: corn,

wheat, soybeans, alfalfa, popcorn, white corn, peas, seed corn, dry beans, sunflowers, oats, millet, sugar beets, sorghum, cover crops, and vegetable production. Various aspects of the livestock industry are represented including cow/calf, backgrounding, finishing, dairy barns, nursery-to-finish hog production, and pullet raising to egg production.



2024 Agtech Connect Conference

On July 17, 2024, the third annual AgTech Connect Conference brought together over 300 attendees for a full day celebrating agriculture technology in the Midwest. The event featured networking breaks, engaging roundtable discussions, and a lively happy hour, fostering meaningful connections throughout the day. FMC Ventures and Grit Road Partners kicked off the conference with the opening keynote, while AGCO Ventures closed the program with an impactful keynote session.

Save the date for the 2025 AgTech Connect on July 16, 2025, at Nebraska Innovation Campus!

Conference Highlights:

- 300 Attendees
- AgTech Demonstrations by ALA Engineering and Barn Owl Precision Ag





THE COMBINE
STARTUPS

Combine Incubator Companies

Cattle Kettle



Company Description: Cattle Kettle is an innovative livestock management system designed to simplify and enhance the management of cattle water tanks. Our cutting-edge solution provides real-time monitoring of water tank metrics and enables seamless remote control and automation through an easy-to-use website. By automating water tank management, Cattle Kettle empowers ranchers to save significant time and money—eliminating the need for frequent trips to check and maintain tanks manually.

Location: Lincoln, Nebraska

BovEye



Company Description: BovEye's fully remote inspection tools help financial institutions monitor and document agricultural assets anywhere in the world, with a click of a button. BovEye first product uses high-resolution satellite imagery and AI models to automate collateral inspections for cattle on feedyards or rangeland - helping organizations optimize inspection protocols, improve asset visibility, and mitigate the risk of fraud. BovEye has recently added satellite-based crop and infrastructure inspection functionality, as well as mobile-based inspection tools.

Location: Omaha, Nebraska

EZ Grazer



Company Description: EZ Grazer is feeding your dream by upgrading your horse feeding for optimal health and nutrition with EZ Grazer equipment. The EZ-Grazer system offers a more natural feeding solution compared to conventional feeder options, simulating the natural grazing behavior essential to your horse's health and well-being.

Location: Firth, Nebraska

Combine Incubator Companies

FuturHerd Solutions



Company Description: The Nursery Nanny, by FuturHerd Solutions, is a robot that performs in piglet barns to help decrease the mortality rate by encouraging piglets to be more active and get more feed and water during their transition in a nursery barn.

Location: Lincoln, Nebraska

Viosomos Agriculture



Company Description: The mission of Viosimos Agriculture LLC is to create sustainable solutions to crop disease. The company is currently focused on developing biological fungicides for soil fungal diseases. These biofungicides will be non-toxic to humans and other organisms and will be effective non-chemical treatments for diseases that plague agricultural production. The company is comprised of one plant microbiome scientist from the University of Nebraska – Lincoln and two scientists from the University of Missouri – Columbia – a plant microbiologist and a computer scientist with expertise in artificial intelligence.

Location: Lincoln, Nebraska

AGsoliare

Company Description: AGsolaire’s mission is to produce small agriculture equipment powered by renewable energy sources to augment sustainable production practices. Its initial commercial device, a “smart” seed thresher, will integrate technology and software providing wireless control and enabling delivery of real-time information such as preharvest grain yield and quality estimates for the benefit of regional farmers and research agronomists.

Location: Lincoln, Nebraska

Combine Incubator Companies

Plains Technologies

Company Description: Plains Technologies LLC is focused on developing climate-smart technology tools for production agriculture. Our current product and service verticals are: (1) Uncrewed Ground Vehicles (UGVs) for : Cover-Crop Planting, Targeted Fertilizer application, and Pest Management, and (2) Educational Robotics (UAVs and UGVs).

Location: Lincoln, Nebraska

Landoption

Company Description: Landoption's dealer network helps agriculture alternative land-use programs enroll more acres. Our software platform enables program education and streamlines the enrollment process, resulting in better profitability and sustainability for all.

Location: Lincoln, Nebraska

Combine Incubator Alumni

Terrace Ag

Company Description: Terrace Ag is an end-to-end software solution for farmland valuations. The platform enables ag land appraisals or evaluations to be performed 40% faster through data, integration and automation. The company allows farm managers and rural land appraisers to access sales database, GIS mapping, comparable sales, and report writing all in one platform. The company is now integrated with Farm Credit Services of America.

Location: Omaha, Nebraska



Grain Weevil

Company Description: The Grain Weevil is a grain safety and management robot that protects people and profits by controlling risk, reducing costs, and actively optimizing stored grain. Grain bins are dirty, dangerous workplaces and we keep that farmer with a shovel out of the bin by doing the work that no human should. Our mission: No Boots in the Grain.

Location: Omaha, Nebraska



Birds Eye Robotics

Company Description: Birds Eye Robotics aims to solve the labor issue in the poultry industry through robotic automation to improve animal welfare.



Location: Herman, Nebraska

Combine Incubator Alumni

Sentinel Fertigation



Company Description: Sentinel Fertigation provides image-based agronomic intelligence for optimal nutrient management through its N-Time software. N-Time provides farmers and their agronomists the tools necessary to improve efficiency, profitability, productivity, and environmental stewardship.

Location: Lincoln, Nebraska

Corral Technologies



Company Description: Corral Technologies allows producers to remotely move, track, and contain thief cattle using Corral's virtual fencing system. Ranching operations are utilizing Corral's system to increase their herd sizes by over 35% while incurring fewer labor and material costs.

Location: Lincoln, Nebraska

Bluestem Biosciences



Company Description: Bluestem focuses on the sustainable bio-production of chemicals through anaerobic fermentation. The company aims to produce these chemicals on an industrial scale. Their mission to diversify and decarbonize the chemical industry begins with purpose-built biology for existing infrastructure.

Location: Omaha, Nebraska

Combine Incubator Alumni

Treadsure

Company Description: TreadSure aims to create a stand-alone solution that brings current disparate data sources in user manuals and field sales representatives' information to improve the resale process of agriculture tires.

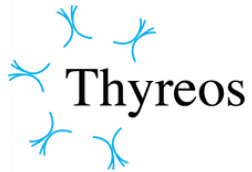
Location: Gothenburg, Nebraska



Thyreos Vaccines

Company Description: The Thyreos R2 platform is a major breakthrough that allows for creation of effective vaccines against many herpesviruses that infect humans and a wide range of companion animals and livestock. The company's roadmap includes the human-health market. Initial commercial opportunities are focused on the animal health space.

Location: Lincoln, Nebraska



Idem Irrigation

Company Description: Idem developed a patent-pending pivot sprinkler head technology. The technology aims to increase moisture percentage, deepen root growth, and reduce crop stress days.

Location: Gering, Nebraska



Combine Incubator Alumni

American Edge Grain



Company Description: American Edge Grain (AEG) is the first data-driven, virtual Grain Attribute Exchange to connect farmers who have grain with premium attributes with the end-users that need them. AEG offers a fully transparent, end-to-end service – from procurement to sales and delivery.

Location: Elm Creek, Nebraska

Bullseye GX



Company Description: Agri-genomics startup Bullseye GX is committed to empowering beef and dairy producers with genetic testing solutions. Our innovative approach delivers affordable and quick results to optimize herd health, enhance breeding efficiency, and drive profitability. By providing actionable data, we enable producers to make informed decisions that maximize their returns.

Location: Lincoln, Nebraska

DARO



Company Description: DARO is revolutionizing farm resiliency with cutting-edge pathogen surveillance systems that stop swine disease outbreaks before they happen. By harnessing the most effective strategies learned from the COVID-19 pandemic, DARO is enhancing livestock health, productivity, and biosecurity by placing swine producers in a proactive seat.

Location: Lincoln, Nebraska

Combine Incubator Alumni

MTE Biotech



Company Description: Molecular Trait Evolution (MTE) offers innovation in the use of non-model microbes for new biocatalysts and renewable products. We are a biotechnology company that specializes in microbial strain enhancement and optimization. MTE designs natural or synthetic microbes or microbial consortia to solve complex biological problems.

Location: Lincoln, Nebraska

Nave Analytics



Company Description: Nave Analytics is an AgTech company that empowers farmers and agronomists to make better planting and irrigation decisions, as well as provides water management agencies with valuable insights into regional water usage. Using satellite data, weather info, and soil characteristics, their platform delivers real-time insights on soil moisture, crop water use, and risks like drought or leaching—all without in-field sensors

Location: Kearney, Nebraska

Combine Startups-In-Residence



ALA Engineering

Company Description: ALA Engineering is a Nebraska-based startup developing robotics and self-driving technologies to revolutionize the cattle feeding and finishing industry.

Status: Startup-In-Residence



Marble Technologies

Company Description: Marble tackles the toughest challenges in the food supply chain. By revolutionizing how the world processes food, we advance worker safety, increase sustainability, and improve efficiency.

Status: Startup-In-Residence



FarmAfield

Company Description: FarmAfield is an online marketplace streamlining capital deployments in the ag sector. The marketplace allows for the purchase of real agricultural assets and complementary risk management strategies. The company is currently partnering with the Department of Energy to conduct a feasibility study of utilizing the platform to increase capital to solar projects in agriculture.

Status: Startup-In-Residence

Notable Former Combine Start-ups-In-Residence



CropX

Company Description: CropX is an ag-analytics company that has developed advanced adaptive irrigation services, which automatically optimizes irrigation, thereby delivering dramatic crop yield increase and water and energy cost savings to farms. CropX's technology was developed by a team of world-leading scientists and has been validated on-farm over the past five years. In addition to their Midwest team, the company has offices in Israel and California.

Status: Former Startup-In-Residence



GreenEye

Company Description: Greeneye Technologies is an Israeli-based precision ag company expanding to the US. Greeneye utilizes artificial intelligence and deep-learning technology to transition from the practice of broadcast and wasteful spraying of pesticides to precise spraying in real-time. In 2022, the company developed field trials with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Agricultural Research Division (ARD) to benchmark the performance of its proprietary AI precision spraying system against broadcast application of herbicides.

Status: Former Startup-In-Residence



MicroMGx

Company Description: The MGx platform technology, developed by MicroMGx, discovers new chemistry by harnessing the power of the world's best chemists: microbes. Microbes have been creating and modifying chemicals to do specific tasks for over 4 billion years. Nature created a bacteria that causes onion center rot, which led to the discovery of a new chemical naturally produced by this bacterial strain. MicroMGx tested the active ingredients and now are developing this chemical into a broad-spectrum herbicide.

Status: Former Startup-In-Residence



Nebraska is the epicenter of the BioEconomy

The Nebraska BioEconomy is the key to elevating Nebraska's economic capability, revitalizing rural communities, protecting family farms and ranches, and spurring investment in critical infrastructure. By transforming the products, services, technologies, and production methods that align with the demands of a re-industrialized rural America, Nebraska is setting a blueprint for the future. This foundation ensures a thriving agricultural sector while driving innovation and sustainability at the core of the nation's growth.

The Nebraska BioEconomy is America's secret weapon for food security, energy independence, and the fortification of our domestic assets. It represents a critical advantage in meeting global challenges, creating high-paying jobs, and bolstering national competitiveness in emerging markets. Through collaborative efforts, Nebraska is uniquely positioned to lead the charge in building a resilient and prosperous economy for generations to come.



THE COMBINE

10 Top National AgTech Developments from 2024

1

John Deere and Starlink Strike a Deal



John Deere signed a deal with SpaceX's Starlink business to connect tractors, seed planters, crop sprayers and other equipment in areas that lack adequate internet service, allowing them to use Deere's digital products. Deere stated that "connectivity is as important as sunlight" to farming. Connectivity is one of the biggest hurdles to successful agtech utilization, and it is unrealistic that traditional internet or 5G providers would connect all rural parts of Brazil, the United States or elsewhere. This enabling infrastructure is also key to John Deere's forecasts and commitments to shareholders: 10% of revenue from annual recurring sources by 2030.

2

AGCO All-In On Mixed-Fleet Aftermarket Ag Tech



The company is planting its flag as the farmer-first, mixed-fleet leader for aftermarket and OEM precision ag technology and data solutions. according to AGCO, there are a lot of users who see value in the hole it's trying to fill: a brand agnostic technology partner. Its recently unveiled PTx Trimble, AGCO's newly imagined precision ag tech brand, intends to be just that for farmers going forward. As long as the equipment is 10 years old or newer, you can bolt this aftermarket kit onto your tractor and experience similar smart farming capabilities as the guy up the road who just plunked down half a million on a brand new 2024 model.

3

Cooperative Ventures Leads \$10M Series A for Traction Ag's Farm Accounting Tech



Cooperative Ventures has invested in Traction Ag, Inc., a leader in farm accounting technology and the first to develop cloud-based accounting software for farmers across the United States. As a joint venture between farmer-owned cooperatives CHS and GROWMARK, Cooperative Ventures focuses on fostering commercial relationships between startups and cooperative partners. Traction Ag's \$10 million Series A round, led by Cooperative Ventures with participation from Plymouth Growth and existing investors, supports its mission of empowering farmers and ranchers. The company's cloud-based accounting software integrates data, offering farmers the insights to make critical decisions and improve profitability.

4

Bayer, AgVend Collaboration Allows Retailers to Improve Digital Connectivity



Climate FieldView, Bayer's flagship digital farming platform, announced today a new agreement with AgVend, the leading provider of digital enablement solutions for ag retailers, to help maximize farmer ROI through simplified data sharing, making it easier for agronomic advisors to tailor recommendations for their customers. Just in time for the 2024 harvest season, U.S. farmers will have the option to share FieldView reports directly with their trusted advisors through their ag retailer's AgVend-built platform. A targeted group of retailers will pioneer this new integration allowing insights such as harvest summary reports – including yield, harvested area, moisture, seed performance, and productivity data – to conveniently feed into their system of action.

5

Hylio Unveils New Advanced Agri-Drone System



Hylio, an industry leader in developing autonomous crop-treatment UAS, has announced its most elite agri-drone to date. Capable of spraying up to a 40-foot swath width, with a liquid application rate of up to 50 or more acres an hour at 2 gallons per acre, the HYL-150 can treat hundreds of acres per day. A swarm of two or more HYL-150 drones can treat or seed thousands of acres per day. The HYL-150 can be flown in fully autonomous or manual modes. Using Hylio's proprietary agricultural UAS ground control software, AgroSol, operators can program treatment maps.

10 Top National AgTech Developments from 2024 Cont.

6



Climate-focused deep tech startup HabiTerre closes \$10 million Series A

Building upon extensive research and development by University of Illinois professor Dr. Kaiyu Guan, HabiTerre's "system-of-systems" technology monitors and measures the environmental impacts of farm operations. The system uses a combination of remote sensing, process models, and artificial intelligence to evaluate past, present, and future land performance and create simulations that can predict environmental outcomes on the farm. The new investment will largely go towards scaling HabiTerre's technology offering "to make it even more efficient for quality assurance and quality control" for more companies across the ag value chain."

7



farmwave

Farmwave Collaborates with Dell Technologies to Decrease Harvest Loss for Farmers

Farmwave's vision AI software monitors harvest loss autonomously without stopping, showing you where grain loss is coming from on the machine in real-time. Cameras uniquely positioned on the header and rear of the machine take pictures every 3 seconds, and literally count the kernels in each image and do the math to calculate how much grain the farmer is leaving behind. When farmers see these losses, they can then immediately manipulate the machine to reduce the loss and retain more of the grain.

8

indigo

GROWMARK, Indigo Ag Form a Sustainability-Based Strategic Partnership

Indigo Ag and GROWMARK have announced a major multi-year strategic partnership to bring new innovative powder-based biological products and sustainability programming to GROWMARK's member companies and farmers. Now, farmers will be able to conveniently access and benefit from Indigo's market-leading suite of biological and sustainability solutions through their local FS cooperatives. GROWMARK COO, Wade Mittelstadt, said, "Biological products have the potential to deliver valuable benefits for growers, but utilizing them on the farm can be a challenge due to stability, shelf-life, and application constraints.

9



FBN

ADM, FBN Launch Gradable Venture to Boost Sustainable Ag Practices Adoption

ADM and Farmers Business Network (FBN) have launched Gradable, a joint venture to expand its platform and accelerate adoption of sustainable and regenerative agriculture practices. Gradable tracks farming practices, helping farmers earn financial rewards and enabling buyers to access sustainably produced grain. Since 2020, it has supported over 20,000 farmers across 12 million acres, scoring 200 million bushels of grain and facilitating \$30 million annually in incentives. Partners like ADM, POET, and Attebury Grain bolster its impact. This 50-50 joint venture aims to grow Gradable's reach across the grain supply chain, connecting growers and buyers.

10

BUSHEL

Bushel® Expands Access to Its Payment Network for Farmers and Ag Businesses

Bushel, an independently-owned software technology company for the agricultural supply chain, announced a new feature in Bushel Wallet that allows verified farmers and agribusinesses to invite their trusted partners into Bushel's digital payment network for fast and secure payments. By bringing businesses such as agronomists, truckers, and custom harvesters into Bushel's payment network, farmers and agribusinesses can now avoid the hassle of traditional checks and ACH delays, achieving near real-time payments tailored specifically for agriculture.

THE NEBRASKA CORN BOARD

The Nebraska Corn Checkoff, administered by the nine farmer directors of the Nebraska Corn Board, is a self-help investment program designed to help develop, carry out and participate in programs within the four pillars of corn education, research, market development and promotion. The goal is to enhance profitability and expand the demand and value of Nebraska corn and value-added corn products. Each year, Nebraska farmers produce well over one billion bushels of corn. Nebraska is the nation’s third-largest corn producer. They’re also second in ethanol production and distillers grain and first in white corn. Nebraska has more irrigated corn acres than any other state.



Through responsible stewardship and improved management practices, Nebraska corn farmers are growing more corn with less fertilizer, chemicals, water, land, and less of an impact on the environment. Nebraska corn farmers have an unwavering commitment to doing a better job on every farm, every season.

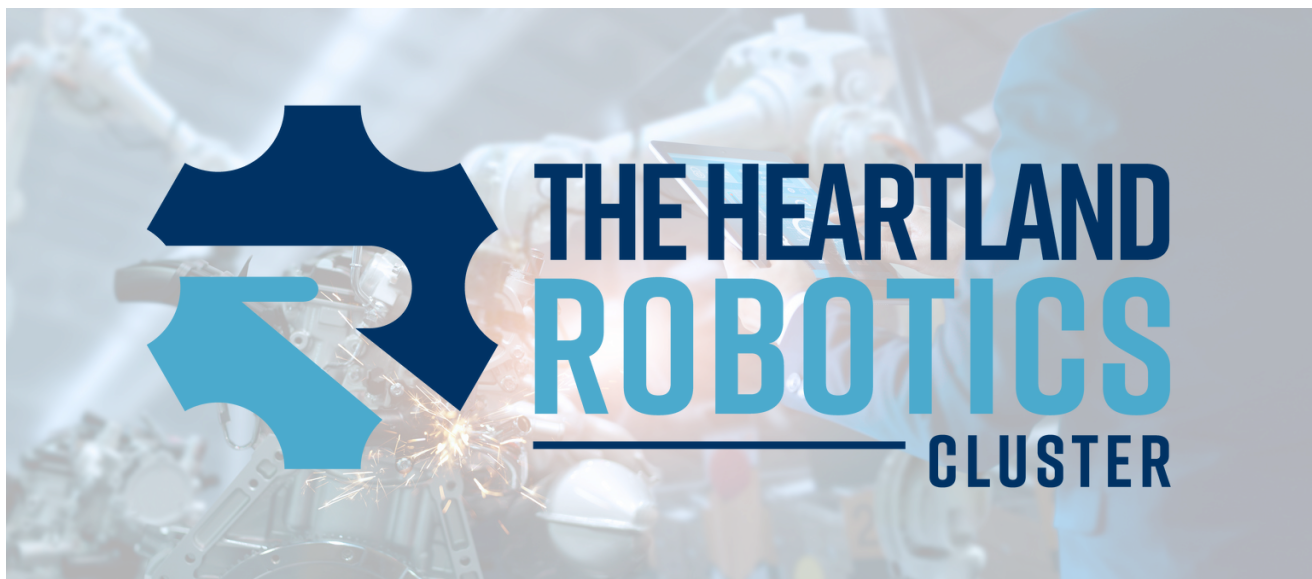


VISIONARY SPONSOR OF THE COMBINE



Heartland Robotics Cluster Progresses in Building Robotics Pipeline in Nebraska

2024 marked the second annual Heartland Robotics and Automation Conference, hosted by The Heartland Robotics Cluster on November 22nd at the Nebraska Innovation Campus. This year's event featured a Partner Showcase, where HRC partners highlighted their achievements, as well as tours of Nebraska Innovation Campus and Metro Community College's mobile hydroponics trailer. The conference brought together 172 attendees, a 10% increase from the previous year, with students comprising 89% of attendees. Keynote speakers included leaders in venture capital, humanoid robotics, artificial intelligence, and medical robotics. The conference wrapped up with a company showcase highlighting Nebraska robotics startups and student groups. The event provided an engaging platform for exploring advancements in robotics and automation, fostering networking and collaboration among students, professionals, and industry leaders.



VISIONARY SPONSOR OF THE COMBINE



10 Top Nebraska AgTech Developments from 2024

1

N

Nebraska agriculture leads bioeconomy revolution with multi-billion investments

Nebraska is an ag powerhouse, and now companies are investing billions to shape the next generation of the bioeconomy, transforming commodities into more than just food and feed. “Carbon capture facilities at both Hastings and Lexington, 125 million gallons a year, one at both plants,” said Wayne Garrett of Chief. Chief will use the Trailblazer pipeline, operated by Tallgrass, which is converting a natural gas pipeline to transport carbon dioxide. Nearby, Cargill partners with Love’s in a joint venture called Heartwell, which will turn beef plant waste into diesel fuel. “Nebraska is a leader in value-added ag,” said Cargill’s David McCullough.

2



Combine’s Cattle Kettle wins \$15,000 in Governors New Venture Competition

Governor Jim Pillen awarded prizes to three teams of college entrepreneurs in the inaugural Nebraska Governor’s New Venture Competition. This contest, designed to highlight and encourage student-led entrepreneurship, was managed by the Nebraska Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Invest Nebraska, Nebraska Public Power District, and the Nebraska Department of Economic Development. “Entrepreneurs are the bread and butter of our economy,” said Gov. Pillen. “They’re innovators and job creators who help Nebraska grow.” He praised the courage and ingenuity of the participants. The winning teams were: 1st Place: Privy AI; 2nd Place: Cattle Kettle; 3rd Place: Dyslexico

3



First Greeneye Technology Dealership Opens in Nebraska

Greeneye Technology, a pioneer in AI precision spraying that reduces chemical use by an average of 88%, has announced the opening of its first dedicated dealership. Partnering with Nebraska-based Boeck Seed Services, the dealership will offer sales, installation, and service to farmers in Nebraska and neighboring states. This marks the first step in Greeneye's nationwide dealership expansion. Nadav Bocher, CEO of Greeneye Technology, shared excitement about the dealership's opening, emphasizing the importance of partnering with trusted local dealers to provide excellent service. Boeck Seeds, located near Exeter, is a leading retailer and precision planter dealer, making it an ideal partner for Greeneye.

4



Invest Nebraska and the Combine win SBA 2024 Growth Accelerator Stage One

Administrator Isabel Casillas Guzman, head of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), announced the winners of the 2024 Growth Accelerator Fund Competition Stage One. Each winner will receive a \$50,000 prize for their impactful and inclusive efforts to foster a thriving national innovation ecosystem. The competition recognizes organizations that advance small business research and development. “SBA’s Growth Accelerator Fund Stage One winners join our vast network of entrepreneurial support organizations, helping ensure the next generation of science and technology innovations grow into successful, thriving businesses,” said Administrator Guzman.

5



Construction begins on groundbreaking precision agriculture research center

The state-of-the-art research center, a collaboration between the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Agricultural Research Service, the University of Nebraska–Lincoln, and the Nebraska Innovation Campus, will focus on agricultural innovation challenges and opportunities for the 21st century. “There is a long history of scientific collaboration between ARS and UNL,” said Chavonda Jacobs-Young, USDA chief scientist. “Updated facilities ensure our best scientists have the tools they need to meet agriculture’s challenges.” The center will focus on key research areas, promoting sustainable, resilient, and efficient agricultural practices to help farmers make informed decisions using the latest technology, tools, and data in this digital era.

10 Top Nebraska AgTech Developments from 2024 Cont.

6



NFarms groundbreaking highlights precision ag innovation, partnerships

NFarms (Nebraska Future Ag Research and Management Systems) formalizes the university's precision agriculture research into a strategic initiative. Operating on over 3,000 acres at the Eastern Nebraska Research, Extension, and Education Center, NFarms fosters public-private partnerships and supports ag entrepreneurship. "We see enormous potential to test new ideas and products while leveraging faculty expertise," said Charling. Joshua DeMers of The Combine, an Invest Nebraska initiative, noted that NFarms will provide Nebraska producers with practical, scalable, and affordable solutions, turning research into impactful agricultural innovations.

7



GrainWeevil starts limited production

Grain Weevil is now offering limited services to producers who want to keep their boots out of the grain this growing season. While we complete our robot development and production, our services will enable you to take advantage of the Grain Weevil benefits before you can own one of your own. Whether it's after harvest leveling, crust break ups or stirring the grain, our service team is ready to help. Reach out to us today to get your service scheduled

8



Nebraska Irrigation Company, Nave Analytics Announces Pre-Seed Funding

Nave Analytics, a technology company developing a sensor-free irrigation decision support tool, has closed its pre-seed funding round. Investors include Invest Nebraska, Husker Venture Fund, Nelnet, and Nebraska Angels Capital Group. The funding will support software development, R&D, the first year of U.S. commercial operations, and global expansion. Founded by Jessi Korinek, Val Kovalsky, and Bradley Griggs, Nave Analytics provides scalable, sensor-free global soil moisture products that deliver affordable, accurate data to improve daily irrigation decisions for farmers worldwide.

9



Speakers on AI, Cybersecurity, Innovation at 2024 Flyover Fintech Conference

U.S. Rep. Mike Flood, Neb., hosted the Flyover Fintech Conference for a second year in Lincoln, attracting business leaders and public officials to discuss financial technology, artificial intelligence (AI), and cybersecurity. Taking place on Monday, October 21, key speakers include Nebraska Department of Banking and Finance Director Kelly Lammers, U.S. Rep. Andy Barr (KY), and House Financial Services Committee Chairman Rep. Patrick McHenry (NC). The event will explore Nebraska's fintech role, networking opportunities, and the future of AI in financial services, housing, and cybersecurity, featuring a panel on "Innovation in Nebraska."

10



Phelps County Selected for DG Fuels' First Midwest Sustainable Aviation Fuel Plant

DG Fuels, a U.S.-owned sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) company, has selected Phelps County, Nebraska, for its first Midwest production facility. The plant will produce 193 million gallons of zero or low CO2 lifecycle emissions SAF annually, meeting ASTM fuel standards, with production starting in 2030. Using cellulosic biomass, such as corn stover, as its carbon feedstock, DG Fuels integrates clean hydrogen to produce near-zero carbon fuel. CEO Michael C. Darcy stated that the process minimizes environmental emissions while providing economic value to agricultural communities and farmers.

A Note of Gratitude from The Combine Team

As we close out 2024, we want to take a moment to thank our Combine community. This year has been full of new partnerships, ideas, and connections that continue to strengthen Nebraska’s AgTech ecosystem.

To our startups, sponsors, mentors, and supporters—thank you for your dedication and belief in the work we do. Your contributions, whether through time, expertise, or resources, are the foundation of The Combine’s success. Together, we are shaping the future of agriculture and driving innovation in our state.

Looking ahead, 2025 brings more opportunities for growth and collaboration. We are excited to build on this momentum and encourage each of you to stay engaged—whether by participating in events, connecting with founders, or sharing our mission with your networks.



Josh DeMers

Combine Program
Manager



Tanner Nelson

Insights Network
Manager



Jessica Rudolph

Ecosystem
Manager

